CORO.

The Oldest City Built by Europeans Upon the Mainland of America.

BY CAPT. ALMONT BARNES.



HOUSE in Curabao, in the Dutch West Indies, faced southward to the Caribbean Sea, and toward the coast of Coro, in Venezuela, the oldest portion of the mainland, the "Spanish Main," inhabited by

That coast is also one of the least known to the outer world; and to intensify ignorance concerning it, its principal article of production entering into the commerce and use of the world bears the name of another locality, politically and geographically divided from it. Alonzo de Ojeda discovered Coro in 1499.

Amerigo Vespucci was with him, and wrote about it. The former was made its first Governor, and of the group of islands 50 miles to the north, of which Caragao is the principal one. The Governor Generalcy enjoyed for sometime the same name which its original inhabitants gave the region, namely, Cognibacoa, as the present Capital of Venezuela bears the name of a noble Indian Chief, Caracas.

My house had something to do with my visit to Caro, because it faces that way. If its main front had been toward the north instead of south, I might rather have sailed for New York. But sitting evening after evening upon the porch in a vast arm-chair, and gazing by the hour out on the blue Caribbean, I could see the little white-sailed coasters going and coming, their canvas filled with sunset light as well as with the trade wind, and straining the vision farther, toward where so many of them went and whither they came, I could often distinguish the peaks of the coast mountains, offshoots of the great Andean Range lying not so very far back; and as the daylight died away and the blue and purple peaks melted slowly into the gold and pearl and gray of evening, and the great white tropical twilight hid the mountains away behind an almost diaphanous film, above where their peaks had shown and night, the shining silver of the

SOUTHERN CROSS. And under and along with all that, nestled into a wrinkle of the coast and the foothills, Coro, forgotten Coro, first city built by white oars.

Anyway, one living beside the sea will be tempted by that shining, changing, capricious beauty to trust her at times, even to the extent | bottom. So at daybreak we were landed at a | ly, on the deserted sidewalk. But hunger igof his life; and sometimes the confidence is long pier in small boats, with baggage and nores beginnings and endings-risings and well repaid. In a much humbler way I knew



RIVER AND FALLS ABOVE CORO.

than did he of the life-picturing Odyssey, and those ancient seekers of the golden ficece, and the man of great and lonely life who sought a highway for the world and all time across the great and lonely deep-Columbus, the second mun who has become a citizen of the world in

And I sat and watched the sea and received its indefinite but enticing revelations until if it was an awful sin to wish to trust to it and get near to Core, I had become almost by unconscious processes an awful sinner.

I saw the often arriving products of the coast, the numberless bales of goat skins, that no sooner were reshipped from the port where I lived to New York and Europe than they lost their primitive name and classification and became for all their future "Curacao kid." It was long, however, before I gained speech with a real citizen of Coro. One seemed seldom to leave his home, or at least his country, and my information from my neighbors never went to a more satisfactory extent than that there was really nothing "across there" but sand, rocks, eacti, and goats-only that there were perhaps a few herders of the goats, who, with their

MEARLY NAMED FAMILIES,

anbaisted upon goat ment and goat milk, while the goats subsisted upon cactus and the cactus

This information, intended to discourage one, had a contrary effect. It seemed to imply from which care and trouble were pretty nearly | some dark-eyed maid or wife. eliminated, and a region where the Christian teaching relative to taking "no care for the morrow," and as to "what ye shall eat or whereknow those principally who were overburdened | alted. Thus one more illusion was dispelled. with religion which they did not seem in the least to enjoy, nor to wish others to do so.

demand personal investigation; and with curi- little vegetation but the cactus, constellation of Ursa Major in the north, I vated, and luxuriant with tropical orchards snook from me the inertia of tropical life, and and gardens. one afternoon at 4 o'clock sailed out of the half-closed jaws of the port of Curação, showing their snarling incisors of forts, and under steady press of sail bowled along toward Coro upon the deck of the sturdy little schooner "El Nueve de Agusto" (The Ninth of August).

Three hundred and eighty-three years before, Americo Vespucci bad entered the port I left, on a smaller vessel, and direct from Coro. The commander of the little vessel, Ojeda, well born, and so during that he had stood upon one foot on the phasacle of a church in Spain, had been the first Governor of the coast and the island, between which I was sailing. At some point our course and that of the discoverers erossed; but that interesting apot remains a mystery of the sea.

Such thoughts are likely to come to a person traversing lands or seas known to Columbus or his companious; but they are not quite so sure to be dispelled as mine were, by a goodnatured, inquisitive, lubberly baby whale. But there was one, close on the port side, and as I stood near the main shrouds it came up alongside so near I could have touched it with a

After an inspection of that side of the vessel for about half a minute the strange visitor dived easily underneath the schooner, came up a little beyond on the other side, and wallowed had to attend to.

A schooner with a small cutin and half a plicated kind, in which the head of one aniand her child, less more room for sleeping upon | in the air together, yout append a targentia on top of the cable, and | other vehicle, nor scarcely a moving body, in miept sweetly in the breath of the trde wind, the long vista. Our steeds seemed to under-

WHAT MAY HAPPEN.

DAME COLUMBIA . "I'm afraid I shall have to warm Chile.



with the day, low in heaven there hung, tremuleus upon the breathing bosom of the nun-like lights far ahead upon the shore, and a larger one statuesque, silent, apparently, they came to so full a stop that the carriage broke upon them like the coming of a billow. Then all became statuesque, silent, solemn. above-"La Vela de Coro" (the light of Coro)from the little light-house. Soon all was still, and no one seemed to be awake. I had not spliced a broken mesh of dreams, bowever, before I heard the subdued but near sound of

brass-bound cross dating from 1527, almost back and a boy handed a few things over the side. reins to Columbus, and her old church and monas- Not a word was said, and soon the rowboat detery dating from 1540, was somewhere there parted as quietly as it came. Its course was here!)" he answered, simply. dreaming the perpetual dream of a tropical not toward the lights, however, and I have always since had an impression that goods entering Venezuela do not invariably enter through it.

Then a member arose and caught the Speaker's eye—arose to a question of a personal nature. He observed with kindled glance a mature.

this, though, doubtless after similar longings, States, one in search of a cross and the other of augurated with Catholic pomp and Castilian cao meat market, and a few returning Venezu-

> To the affirmants by the bird of freedom the revelation of a little village of perhaps

came just ahead of another as disappointing, hat Coro was six miles to the west, and inland, Light.") The customs officials were very polite, and declined to examine our little baggage, and as we had a barrel of so much ice as was not sawdust, we offered a portion to the bandsome administrator if he would furnish a box to put it in. He readily procured a candle box which would hold less than five pounds, assuring us

that it held all he could use. The barrel itself, with ice exposed at the top, drew a crowd of the curious, most of whom beheld ice for the first time. Boys touched it venturously and hastily withdrew their fingers as from fire, blowing them and calling to each other, "Hielo!" (ice!) as in amazement. Our eating of a piece caused consternation, and procured for us marked consideration.

But the consideration we needed was such as would get us to the real Coro and to breakfast, Finally, after much negotiation, we procured the eloquent remains of a covered carriage, a pair of mismated horses, and a colored driver whose formidable whipstock had a cotton-string lash. For the use of this dashing outfit to convey us to the only original, patent, beware-ofinfringement Coro we paid four pesos-\$3.20. Strangely, so far, we had not seen a goat nor a person disreputable for lack of garments. At the seaside two girls were taking a morning splash, but they had on the usual garment for the occasion, and so were fearless of critics. They smiled timidly, as girls will at times, and bowed gracefully, sinking into the water and then laughing to each other, and no doubt at

When, after much delay, our driver was ready and our ice forwarded by cart, and we rattled along the main street in our swaying wehicle, we saw at the open windows of the next

STONE AND STUCCO DWELLINGS many a fresh and eager face of childhood, often logically the simple conditions of existence modestly backed by that of a pretty or hand-

The places certainly appeared home-like, the people civilized; and if goat-food was good for such health and looks as we saw, my companion withal ye shall be clothed," or words to that and myself agreed that goats were too valuable effect, might stand some fair chance of being for the abuse of children in little wagons, and carried out. Is it possible, I asked myself, worthy their fabled place in the mysterious vice in 1865 as Colonel of his regiment, with that there are people accessible who "enjoy | rites of Masonry. To us the horn of the goatreligion"? For it had been my misfortune to the capricorn, as one might say-became ex-

There is a peninsula of Coro, connected with the mountainous mainland by a long, narrow It was long before I saw, and with surprise, neck, perhaps 15 miles wide and nearly level. We each of table, dessert and teaspoons, one dozen a well-dressed gentleman who acknowledged | were to go partly across this neck from the without apparent reluctance that he was a resi- east, towards the western side, which fronts salad knife and fork, brief speeches were Gens. Early, Taliaferro, sent of Coro, and from whom I delicately and upon the Gulf of Coro, a part of the large akilfully elicited the information that he had | Gulf of Venezuela (Golfo de Triste, or Gulf of a few thousand neighbors. The contradictory | the Sorrowful, as it was once called), into which information of various kinds which had thus | Lake Maracaibo pours the water of its 400 come to me, and the shifting and perplexing streams. The castern side of the peninsula is considerations which thereby arose, seemed to one great waste of shifting sand dunes, having | Each piece in the box is of solid silver, the

cestly thus aroused, and with the allurings of But along our way near the foothills of the a handsomely engraved monogram on the 000. Mrs. William B. Hazzard, whose husthe sea, and the mountains, and the Cross sink- coast range we found much of the soil to be ing nightly beyond them in the south in per- deep and rich, cut into by a clear mountain petual rhythm with the rising of the antipodal stream, and in places irrigated, and so culti-

> the cocos palm, Indian fig and other forms of | well P. Flower, Democratic candidate for Goycacti, and the aloe grew; and as a swarm of ernor of New York, during the war, made a locusts had recently passed, in an undeviating | visit recently to his old home, which is also the line toward the sea, the leaves of the tall palms | home of Mr. Flower, and was visited by many showed their way through the air in skeletons of his old friends and business acquaintances. of such leaves upon one side contrasting with | who signed a paper stating that Chaplain undisturbed growth upon the other, all along Towner was an honest man, his reputation of the track of the devastation.

> from a woman and a boy by the wayside a hand- wise, should not receive credence. This was full of Indian figs, the taste of which changes | done because Chaplain Towner had been acin the mouth from sweet to a pleasant, refreshing sour, answering well for drink. The cactus | men of Watertown would not believe him under hight of 15 feet or more, and amid its green but sunke-like groves the turpial (icterus), a large black-and-yellow songster shaped like the mocking bird, but having a longer and sharper bill, flits tamely in and out, a gay and saucy tuft of chromatic melody. Domesticated, he is

as familiar as a country parson. Far enough ahead we could see above the tops of the tropical orchards the square tower of a church. So with fervent words having only an inferential Christian meaning we perguaded our coachman to persuade his horses, one after the other, to awake to the violence of his gestures and hasten on. He astonished lazily away about whatever business or play it | them into perceptible movement, and before they both could subside into dreaminess he caught them on the fly with the end of the reins and projected them into progressive unwas about 20 feet in length. I would give as dulations. As they had been separately permuch to know what and how it thought of us | suaded they did not take the gate in unison, and

dozen passengers, two of which are a woman | mal and the tail of the other were alternately her deck than below. Besides, on those coasters | But finally, with a billowy motion, and ago that carry passengers there are a few "coma- nized creaking and awaying of our leaky ark, rotes," or boxes like deg kennels, into which | we navigated the by-streets, and at last surged one may crawl on deck and smother in security. out upon the main thoroughfare of venerable, I tried one for an hour and then crawled ignobly | silent, sleepy, sun-loved Coro. There was no

"rocked in the cradle of the deep," with the stand that they had arrived sufficiently. In stars turned down to a "dim, religious light," | front of a plain adobe casa, that held out no About 1 in the morning the anchor was promise of any kind, apparently, they came to

> We had arrived. But where was the Parker House? the Fifth Avenue Hotel? the Grand Pacific? the-the "Adonde esta la posada? (Where is the ho-

tel?)" we demanded of the driver, who had men upon the mainland of America, with her | Soon a boat came alongside, and the Captain | ceased from all exertion and dropped the "No hay pesada aqu!! (There is no hotel

Then a member arose and caught the Speaksonry canopy shielding a cross, and beyond it There is no harbor at Core, but an along- a church and adjoining buildings, partly in shore anchorage in shallow water with sandy | rulns, and incidentally a cat dozing, apparentgoods-we being two citizens of the United | declines-and so the relics of 400 years, ina debtor; a Russian cattle-buyer for the Cura- gravity in measured and sonorous ritual, heard finally the impassioned eloquence which relentlessly drafts into its urgent service the concentrated utmost powers of the English tongue, reinforced from Semitic sources. When the honorable member concluded, a

little ashamed of the warmth he had contribnted to a tropical noon, the cross and the church and monastic ruins seemed to have and that we were only at La Vela ("The changed but little, if at all, in appearance; but the cat had arisen to a sitting posture.



THAT CAT. (To be continued.)

Work of the Pension Office. During the week 5,432 claims were received, of which 124 were original invalid, 243 widows, 2 bounty land, 12 navy, 19 old war, 156 accrued, and 2,044 applications for increase; act of June 27, 1890, 1,384 original invalid, 416 widows, and 1.032 who had prior applications

on file under former acts. Number of rejected claims reopened, 280. The names and postoffice addresses of 2,879 comrades were furnished for the use of claimants. There were 102,408 pieces of mail matter received; 76,330 letters and blanks sent out. Number of cases detailed to Special Examiners, 410; reports and cases from Special Examiners, 324; cases on hand for special exami-

Report of certificates issued: Original, 4,470; increase, 2,862; duplicate, 23; accrned, 114; total, 7,469. Total number of claims pending,

A Popular Army Officer.

Gen. Charles H. Smith, Colonel 19th Inf., was retired from active service on the 1st of November, having reached the age limit of 64 years. Gen. Smith entered the service in 1861 as Captain of the 1st Me. Cav., and left the serthe brevet of Major-General of Voluteers. He present building will be greatly enlarged, and was appointed Colonel of the 28th U. S. Inf. in 866, and transferred to the 19th Inf. in 1869. Upon his retirement he was presented by the enlisted men of the 19th Inf. with one dozen each of dinner and dessert forks, a soup ladle, a three small ladels to complete the set, one Rosser, and Field. The last said: "I under-dozen silver and pearl dinner knives, and one stand that a Confederate flag cannot be unfurled natural wood, mounted with silver trimmings. bowls of the ladles are gold lined, and all have

Chaplain Towner Upheld by Citizens of Watertown. Chaplain who made affidavit alleging expressions of disloyal sentiments on the part of Rosthe best, and that they knew of no reason why Growing thirsty on our hot ride, we purchased | a statement made by him, under oath or othercused of false swearing, and that his townsupon which these so-called figs grow reaches a any circumstances. Many of the most prominent men of the city signed the document.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Foreign. An important paper which was read recently at the St. Petersburg Economist Club, has been submitted to the Minister of the Interior and they will be sufficiently impressed with its paper, in the main, urges that a lower duty be piaced upon importations of American cereals. A large crypt will be constructed over the present brick arch, which will then be removed -Patrick McDermott, the McCarthyite candidate, has been elected without opposition to the seat in the House of Commons for North Kilkenny left vacant by the death of Sir John Pope Hennessy. The nomination was given to McDermott after it had been declined by Michael Davitt.—On Wednesday of last week a terrible earthquake destroyed the cities of Nagoya, Gifu and Ojaki, in Japan. In several other cities great devastation reigned. Some 20,000 lives are thought to be lost.—The 50th birthday of the Prince of Wales falls on Nov. 5, and it will be royally celebrated. The corpothey will celebrate the silver wedding of the Czar and Czarina on Nov. 9.—At the close of a McCarthyite convention in Cork last week, Dillon and O'Brien were being escorted to their hotel by the police, followed by the McCarthyites The Tailor—How wide a collar shall I put Carthyites. The procession was attacked by the Parnellities, and numerous broken heads and limbs resulted. The affair ended in the rout of the Parnellites.—The palace of the Prince of Wales in London caught fire Nov. 1. and was damaged to the extent of about \$75,000.

The Porte is enforcing the recent decree prohibiting Hebrew families from entering Turkey. Two steamers, each having on board 80 families of Russian Hebrews seeking refuge from persecution, were unable to obtain per-mission to disembark their passengers.—An ukase has been issued in Russia prohibiting the exportation of all cereals excepting wheat The Russian Government has assigned another 32,000,000 roubles to the distress fund. -- Se vere rioting occurred at Kilkenny, Ireland,

Many persons were hurt. Mr. John Dillon met a hostile reception there while speaking. Political and Industrial. L. L. Polk, President of the Farmers' Alliance, in speaking at Elizabeth City, N. J., last week, said in part: "I have known farmers to leave their crops knes high in grass to go to the courthouse and for hours sit in a hot room to hear a pot-house politician speak and tell them to stick to the party. They stick and the dance of death goes on after election."-Frank McGrath, President of the Farmers' Alliance in Kansas, who was defeated for re-election at Salina last week, said: "The politicians within the Alliance are killing it. Ever since the People's Party sprang into existence our members have been decreasing. Last year the books of the Secretary showed we had a membership of 140,000. The present membership is not over 60,000, and the farmers are becoming ukewarm. What the Alliance needs is men of brains and this it has not "-- Next month there will be a meeting in St. Louis of 22 tinplate and iron mill manufacturers of the United states, to form an association, the object being to bring the employers into closer relations, etc. There is to be nothing of the nature of a trust about this. In benefiting themselves the

Nov. 1, between Parnellites and McCarthyites.

co-operators will give their bar-tin workers from 100 to 150 per cent, more than the English workmen receive. Crimes and Casualties.

At a Farmers' Alliance meeting in Buckport, Ark., Oct. 28, a political quarrel took place among the speciators which was soon taken up by many others in the audience, Winchester rifles, shot-guns and pistols were used with deadly effect. Burt Manuing, J. H. Teenan and three others whose names could not be learned were killed and several slightly wounded .- The first white man ever exccuted either by the law or a mob for the murder of a negro was lynched at Columbia, in Caldwell Parish, in Louisiana, last week. On the 15th plt. an old negro woman named Hagar Stirling was brutally murdered by a white man named John Reese. A mob of masked white men put in their appearance at the parish jail, compelled the jailer to surrender the keys, took Reese from the jail, and banged him to a tree. The United States Grand Jury at Boston on Oct. 27, found nine indictments against the officers and clerks of the Louisiana Lottery Company. Separate bills were found against President Paul Conrad, Secretary Horner, Directors Howard, Morris, Hyannis, Fagende, and Herwig, and five clerks of the ompany. The charges are all of the same haracter-violation of the United States postal laws. --- A regular west bound freight was switching at Thorsen Station, Minn., on the Soo R. R., Oct. 27, when it was wrecked by a west bound extra running at high speed. Five persons were killed and seven seriously injured. -Much trouble has been experienced with the miners banded together at Briceville, Coalville, and other places in Tennessee. On Oct. 30, 141 convicts were released from the places where they were employed in confinement, and a lot more at Coal Creek, On Nov. 2, 200 convicts were released from the stockade and buildings at Oliver Springs. It is estimated that 500 convicts must be at large. The objection of the miners is to convict labor. More trouble is expected.

An astonishing record was made by a small ocomotive on the Blairstown (Pa.) R. R. last week. It was standing unattended at Blairstown, when a passing train threw the lever open, and the engine ran all the way to Portland-12 miles-in six minutes,-New York city will have a new "Castle Garden." The offices for the Inspector of Immigration, Port Physician, and customs offices will be contained in it .- The annual meeting of the Society of the Army of Northern Virginia took place at Richmond, Oct. 27, Gen. William H. Payne presided. Among those who made dozen silver and pearl dessert knives, the whole | at the World's Fair. If that is the case let us contained in a handsome solid oak chest in | now have another World's Fair in this country. -The liftigation over the Tilden estate has been ended, and the decision is in favor of the heirs. The estate is now worth about \$8,000,band is a clerk in New York, will receive about half the estate; she is the daughter of ex-Gov. Tilden's sister. The six children of the ex-Governor's brother, Henry, receive the balance Roger B. Towner, the Brooklyn Grand Army of the estate-between \$600,000 and \$700,000

No Armed Soldiers Allowed in England. Six members of the City Troop, of Philadelphia sailed last week from New York for England, to act as ushers at the wedding of Gen. E. Burd Grubb, United States Minister to Spain. The soldiers carried with them their uniforms and swords, they not knowing that the laws of England do not permit armed men to land on its shores. It is thought, however, that indulgence may be had, and the members of the City Troop be allowed to carry their handsome swords, as they come on a imission of peace. [They will be permitted to wear their handsome uniforms, however, which will be some compensation.

Senator Corman Injured.

At the closing ceremonies of the Democratic campaign of Maryland in Baltimere on Friday, Oct. 30, the reviewing-stand, on which were seated Senator Gorman and a number of prominent people, gave way, and they were precipitated some distance to the street. Nearly every person on the stand was hurt. Senator Gorman was quite badly burt, his left leg being twisted. Representative Barnes Compton was injured so badly that his physicians gave orders that no one be admitted to see him. All the others were only slightly injured.

> Bank of England Notes. [American Pressman.]

Bank of England notes are made from new white linen cuttings-never from anything that has been worn. So carefully is the paper prepared that even the number of dips into the pulp made by each workman is registered on a dial by machinery, and the sheets are counted and booked to each person through whose hands they pass. They are made at Laverstoke, on the River Whit, in Hampshire, by a family named Portal, descended from a French Huguenot refugee, and have been made by the same family for more than 150 years,

Gen. Grant's Tomb Moved. Gen. Grant's tomb in Riverside Park, New York, has been moved to a new foundation of concrete 17 feet deep. The foundation, when finished, will be 107 feet square on top, the whole tomb, including its solid concrete foundato the Famine Commission, in the hope that tion, weighing 160 tons. Thirteen jackscrews they will be sufficiently impressed with its were used to lift it. Not a crack has appeared recommendations to urge their adoption. This | in the whole structure during the entire work.

from over the coffin.

Claimed by the Catholics. A snit was moved to advancement in the Su preme Court of the United States last week by ex-Attorney-General Garland, which is an exreservation at Vancouver, Wash. This land is ration of the City of London are taking steps to ascertain what the Prince would like to do ritory was organized the Catholic Church had on the occasion, and whether he would be a missionary at this point by permission of the satisfied with an address in a gold box, or some | Hudson Bay Company, whose principal trading more substantial donation. Orders have all post was at Vancouver. The organic act of ready been issued to give the army and navy | Oregon conferred title to not exceeding 640 something out of the usual line, and the grena- acres to religious societies occupying land as diers at Windsor will probably have a dinner missionary stations. Under this act the Bishop fit to eat, for that day at least.—The Czar claims this whole section, while the United and Czarina, accompanied by the other members of the Russian Imperial family, the King and merely permission from the Hudson Bay Com-Queen of Denmark, and the Princess of Wales | pany to occupy a small tract for missionary and her two daughters, are in Livadia, where | purposes, and had no title to the land, except

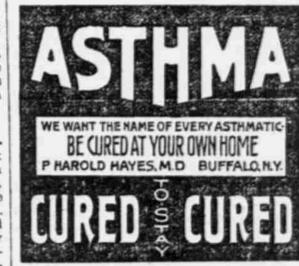
> Tailor-How wide a collar shall I put on your overcoat, sir?" Customer-Make it so wide that when I pass you on the street I can turn it up so you won't

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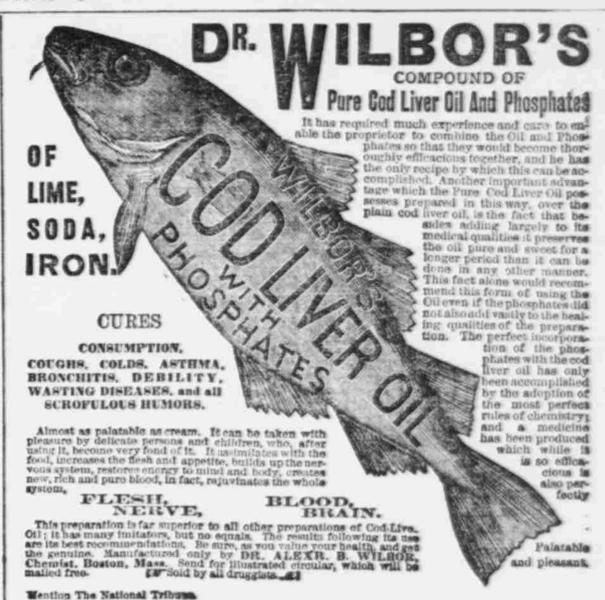
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